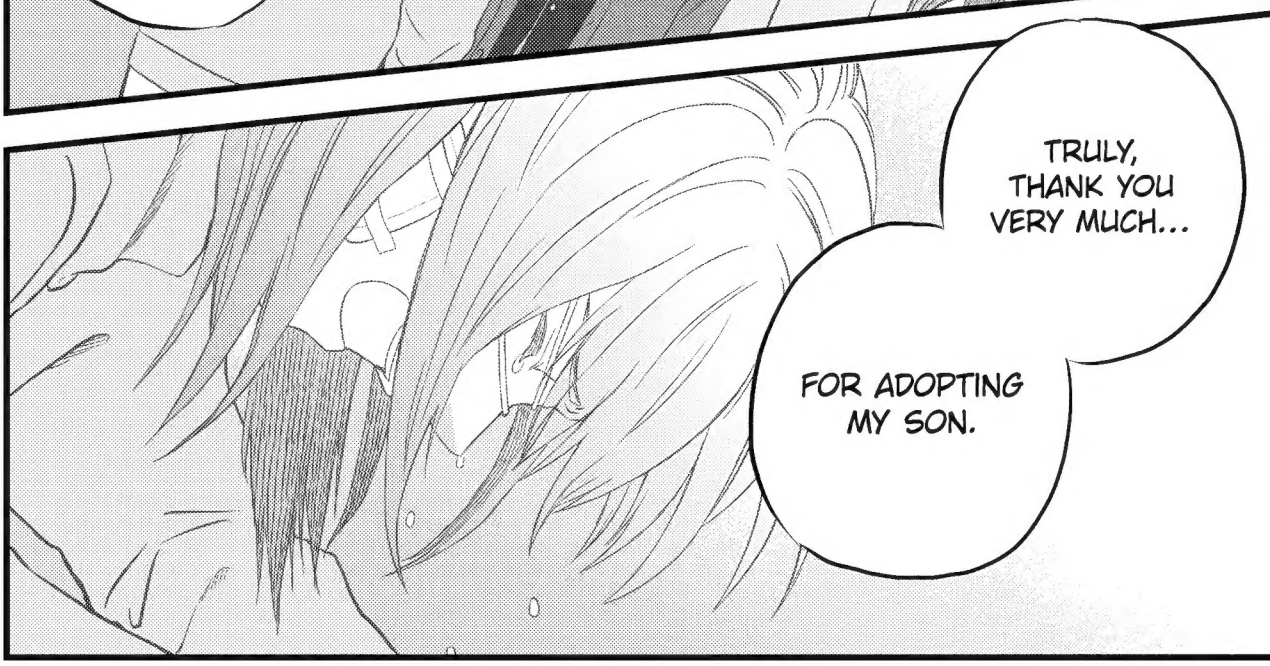
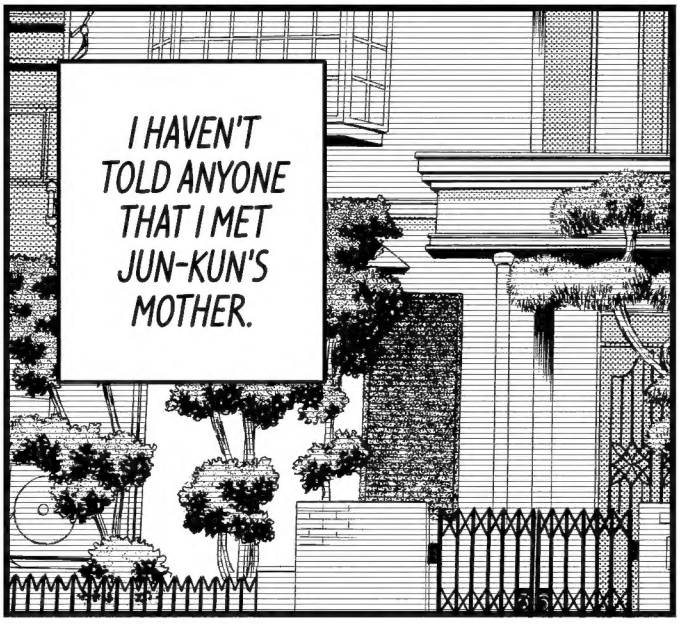
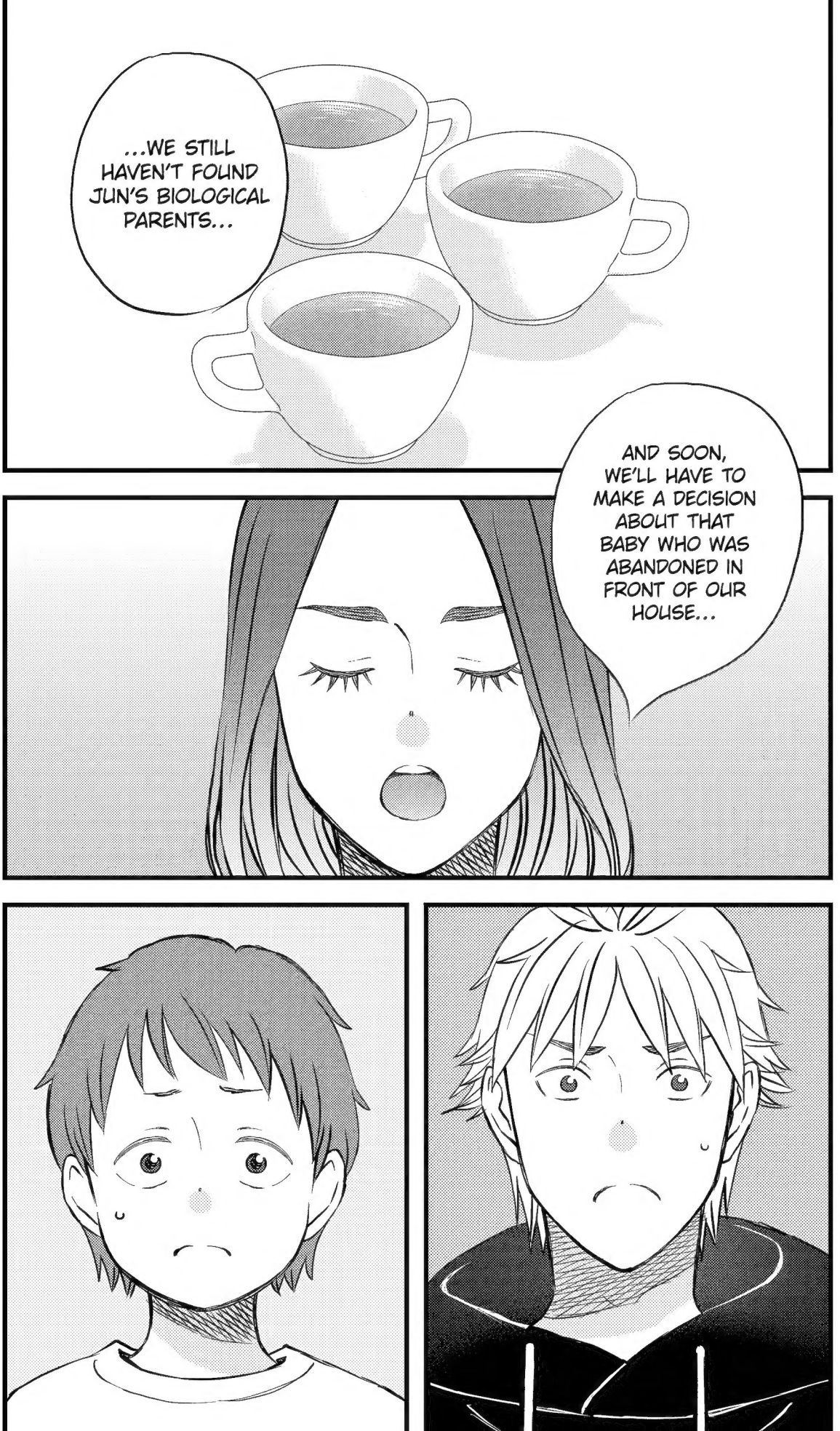
Chapter 75: We're Having A Family Meeting!

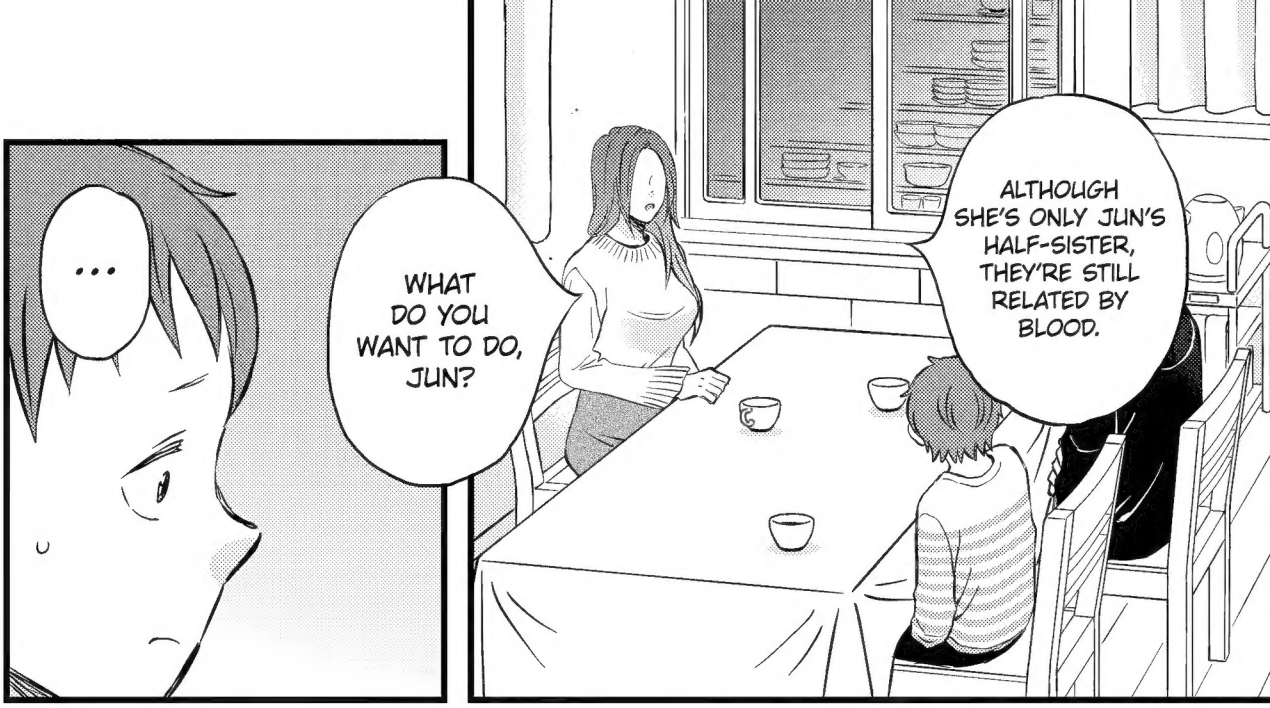
IN FACT, I'LL BE LEAVING THIS TOWN SOON.
I'LL NEVER APPEAR IN FRONT OF MY SON OR DAUGHTER AGAIN.

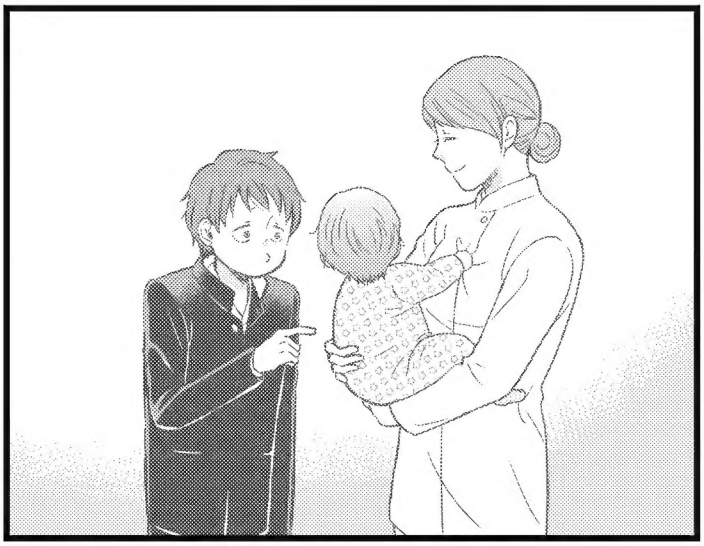

TRULY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
FOR ADOPTING MY SON.

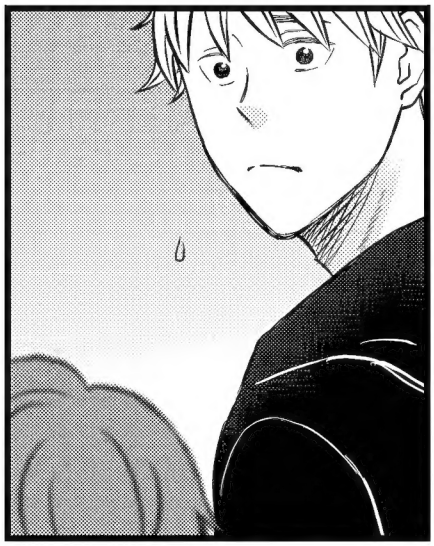

I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE THAT I MET JUN-KUN'S MOTHER.

IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THEN...


...WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND JUN'S BIOLOGICAL PARENTS...
AND SOON, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THAT BABY WHO WAS ABANDONED IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE...


...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, JUN?
ALTHOUGH SHE'S ONLY JUN'S HALF-SISTER, THEY'RE STILL RELATED BY BLOOD.





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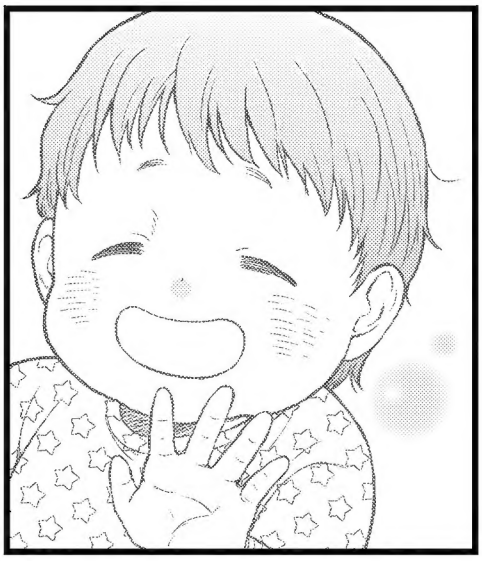
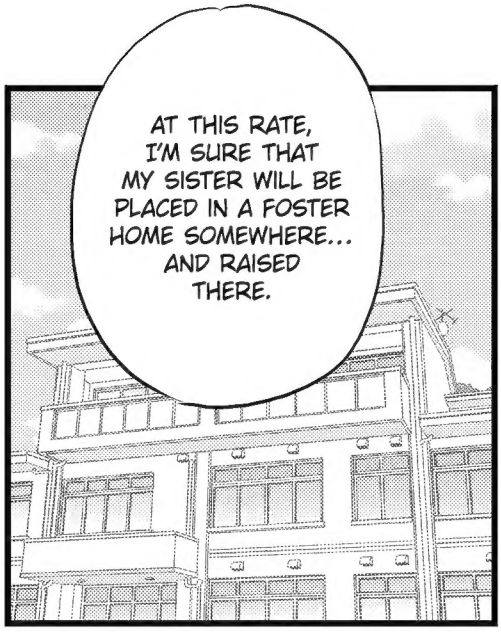
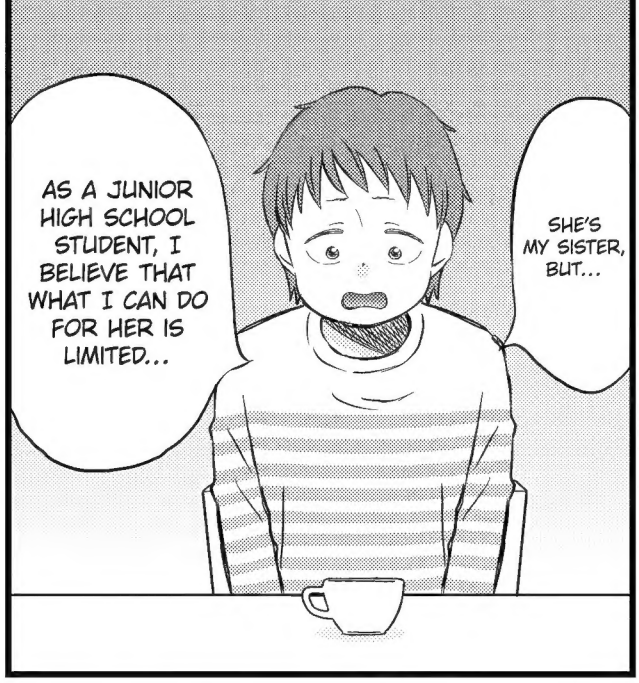
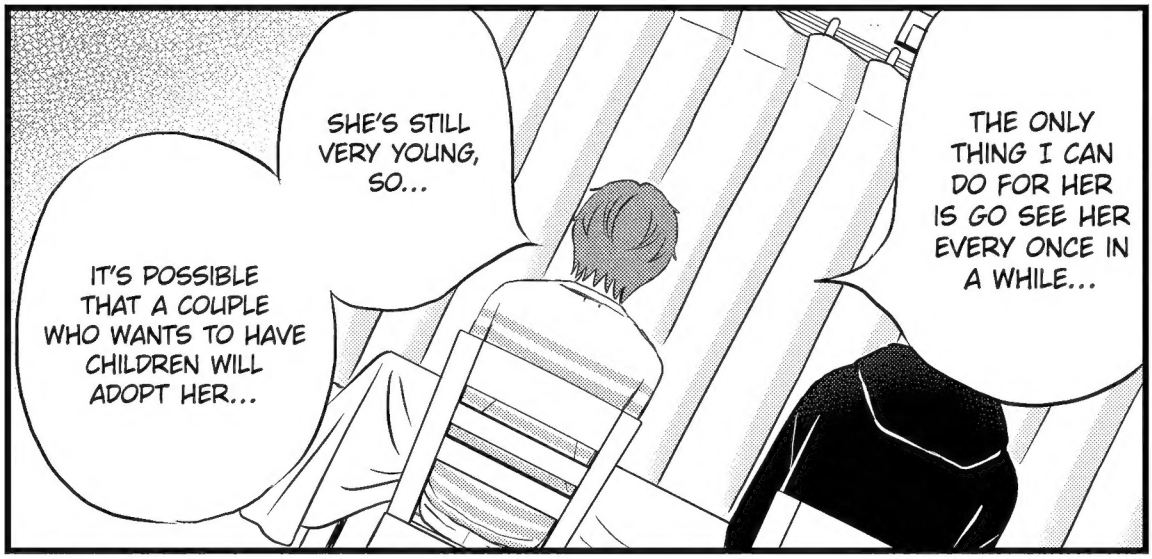
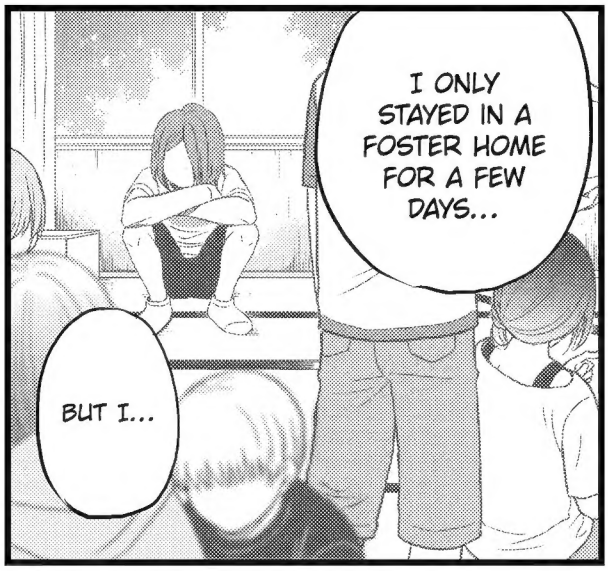



AT THIS RATE, I'M SURE THAT MY SISTER WILL BE PLACED IN A FOSTER HOME SOMEWHERE... AND RAISED THERE.


AS A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, I BELIEVE THAT WHAT I CAN DO FOR HER IS LIMITED...
SHE'S MY SISTER, BUT...

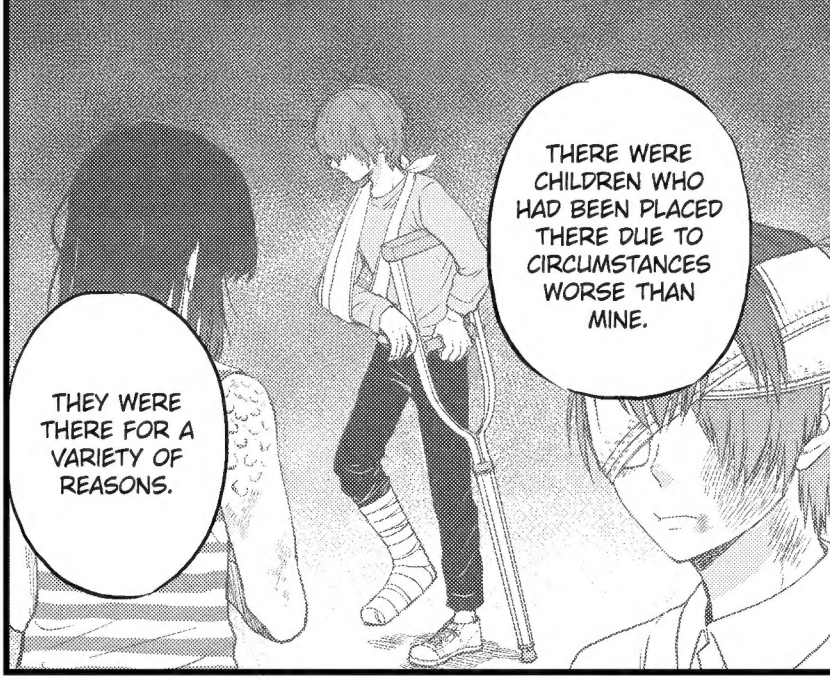

SHE'S STILL VERY YOUNG, SO...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT A COUPLE WHO WANTS TO HAVE CHILDREN WILL ADOPT HER...
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO FOR HER IS GO SEE HER EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...


I ONLY STAYED IN A FOSTER HOME FOR A FEW DAYS...
BUT I...

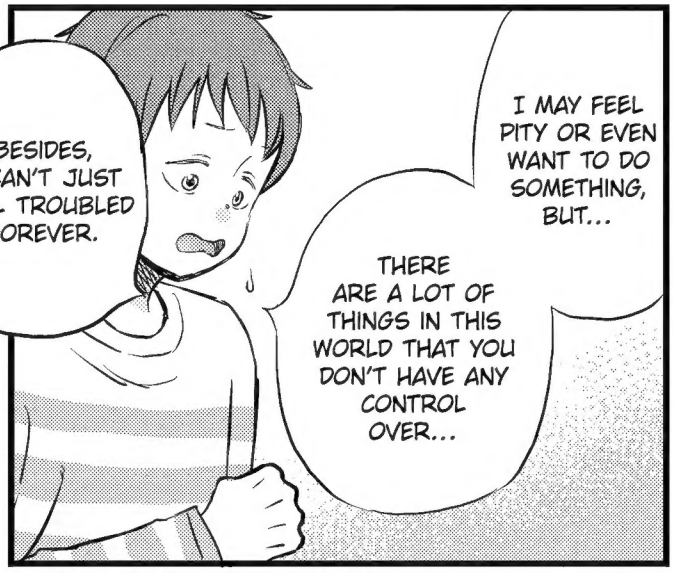
STILL... I THINK THAT...
MY SISTER WILL PROBABLY GROW UP WITHOUT PARENTS.

KEEP
ROOM
SHARING IS CARING!
NO HIYOKO
NO LIFE
I REMEMBER THINKING, "WOW. THERE ARE SO MANY CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTS HERE..."
IT SURPRISED ME.

SO I KNOW IT'S NOT JUST MY SISTER WHO HAS IT TOUGH...


THERE WERE CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN PLACED THERE DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES WORSE THAN MINE.
THEY WERE THERE FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.

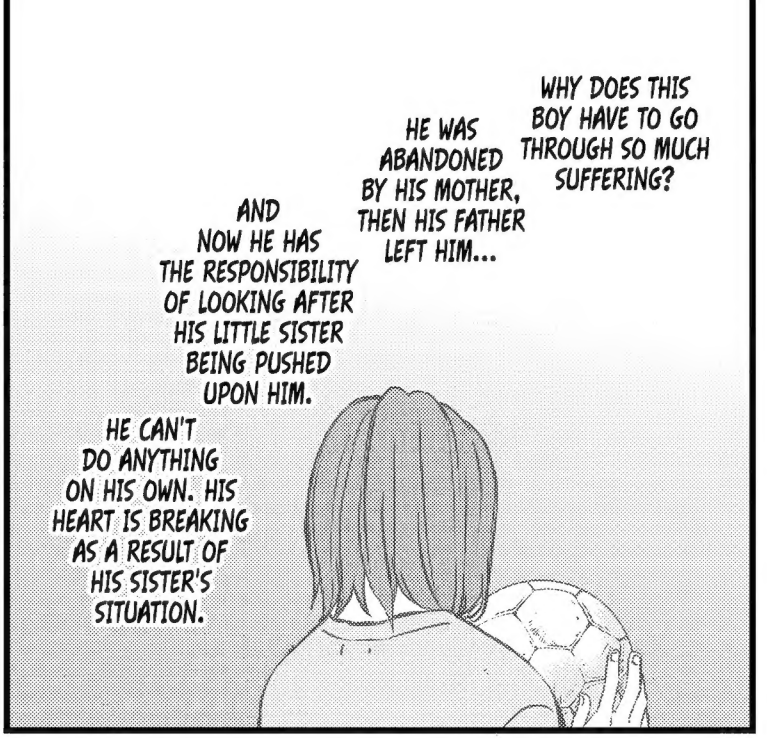
JUN-KUN...
I THINK I JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT REALITY...

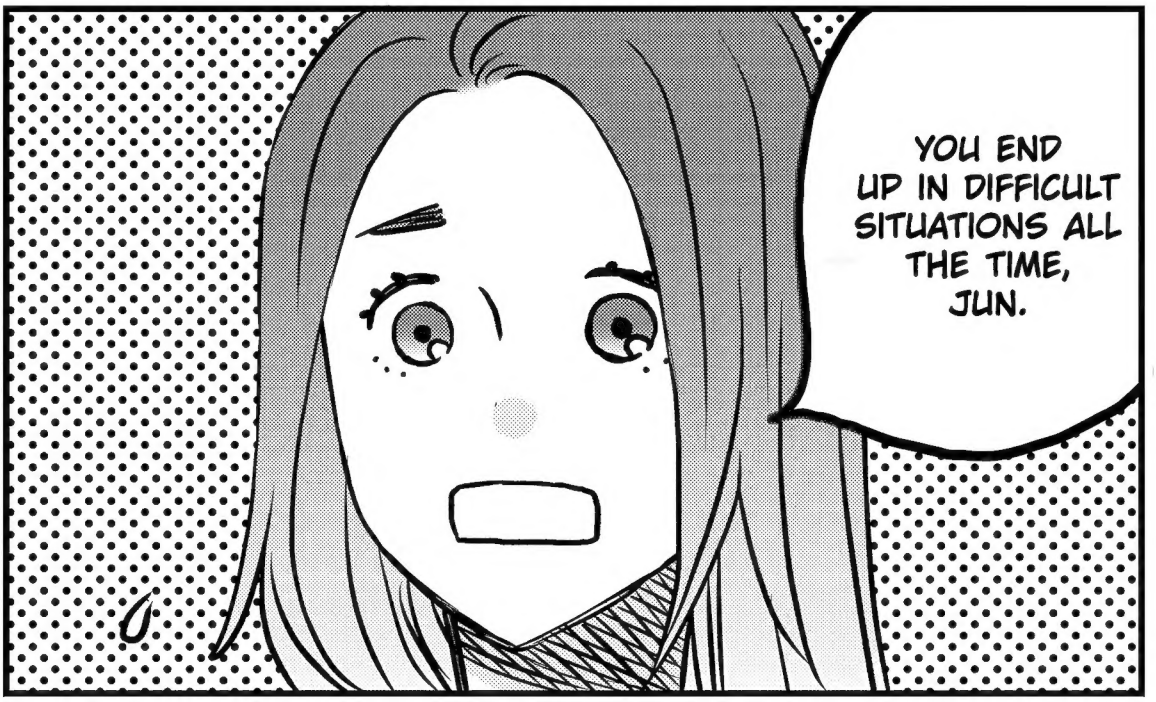

BESIDES, I CAN'T JUST FEEL TROUBLED FOREVER.
I MAY FEEL PITY OR EVEN WANT TO DO SOMETHING, BUT...
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER...

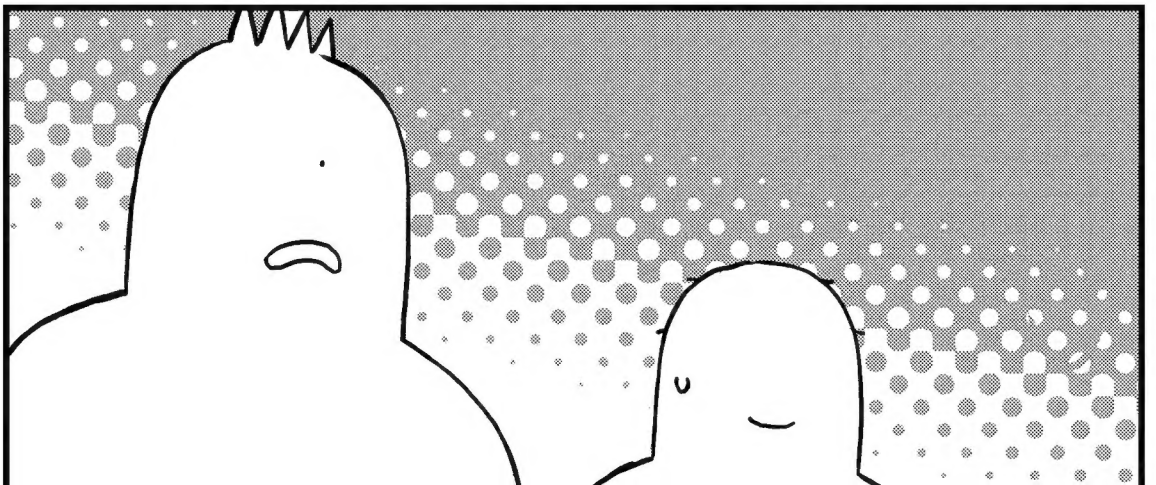
WHY...?

...
I COULD AT LEAST HELP HER BY BUYING HER THINGS THAT SHE NEEDS. WOULD THAT BE OKAY?
OH! BUT I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING A PART-TIME JOB AFTER I ENTER HIGH SCHOOL!

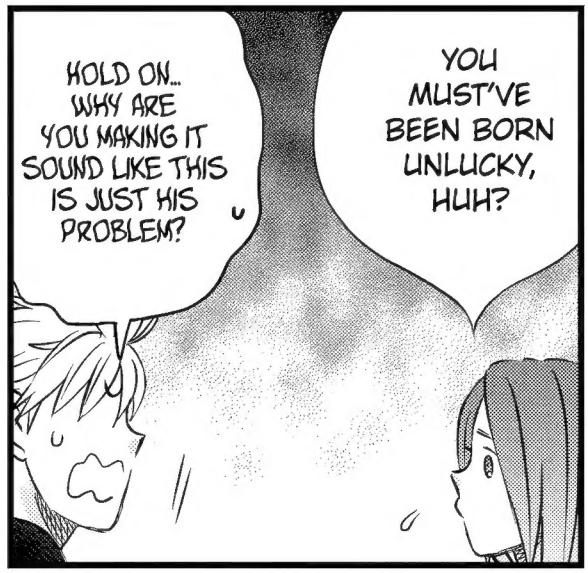
THIS IS FAR TOO HEAVY FOR A CHILD TO BEAR...
...


WHY DOES THIS BOY HAVE TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH SUFFERING?
HE WAS ABANDONED BY HIS MOTHER, THEN HIS FATHER LEFT HIM...
AND NOW HE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOOKING AFTER HIS LITTLE SISTER BEING PUSHED UPON HIM.
HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ON HIS OWN. HIS HEART IS BREAKING AS A RESULT OF HIS SISTER'S SITUATION.

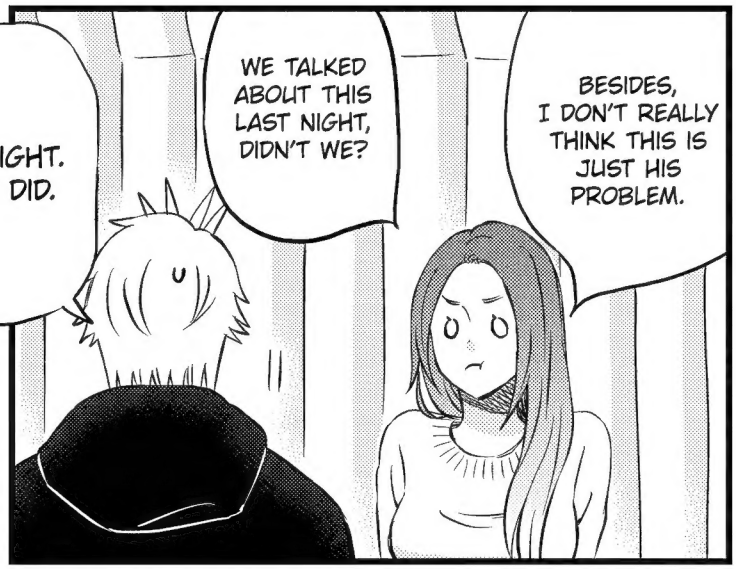

YOU END UP IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS ALL THE TIME, JUN.

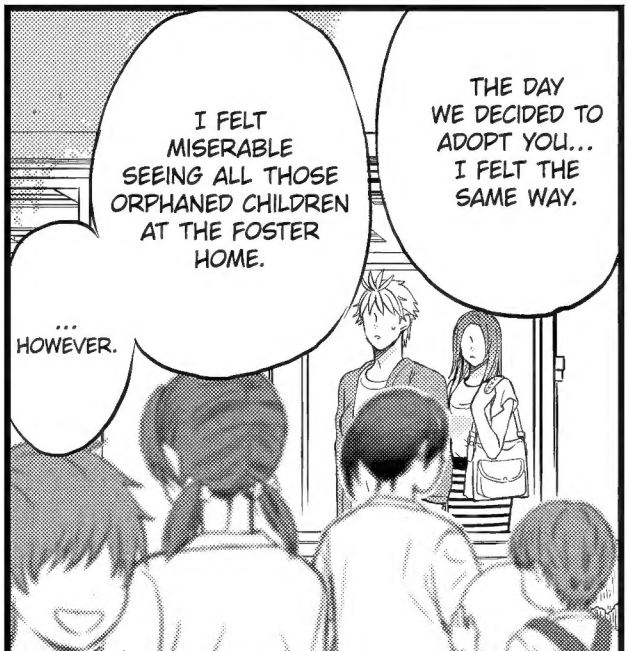


PLEASE THINK A BIT MORE ABOUT JUN-KUN'S FEELINGS BEFORE YOU TALK!!
WELL... THAT'S WHAT I HONESTLY THOUGHT. I COULDN'T HELP BUT SAY IT.
Also, your innocent look is scary!


HOLD ON... WHY ARE YOU MAKING IT SOUND LIKE THIS IS JUST HIS PROBLEM?
YOU MUST'VE BEEN BORN UNLUCKY, HUH?

?
R-RIGHT. WE DID.


WE TALKED ABOUT THIS LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T WE?
BESIDES, I DON'T REALLY THINK THIS IS JUST HIS PROBLEM.


I FELT MISERABLE SEEING ALL THOSE ORPHANED CHILDREN AT THE FOSTER HOME.
THE DAY WE DECIDED TO ADOPT YOU... I FELT THE SAME WAY.
... HOWEVER.

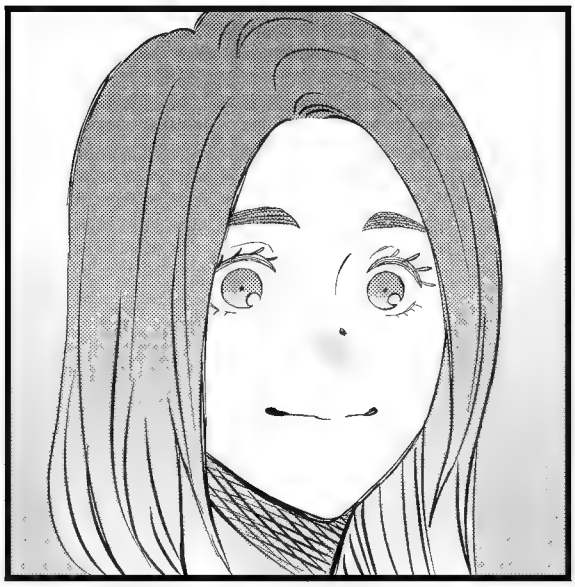
I THINK THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO.
UM, YOU SEE... IT IS AS YOU SAID, JUN-KUN.

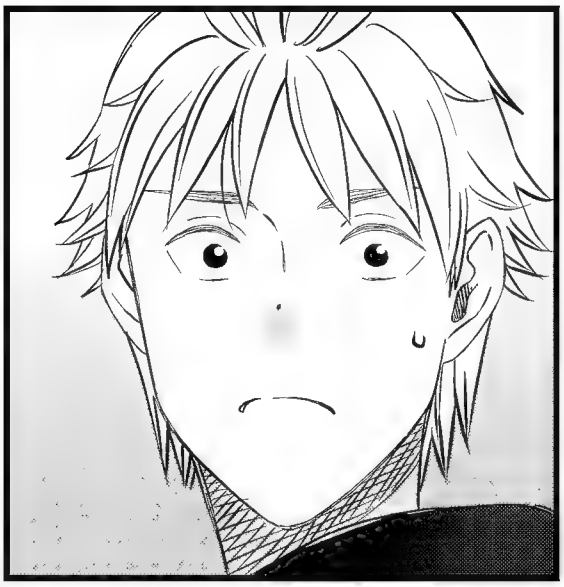
EVEN ADULTS ARE LIMITED IN WHAT THEY CAN DO.

OBJECTIVELY SPEAKING, THERE WASN'T ANYTHING CONCRETE I COULD DO TO HELP THEM...
I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT.

I CAN'T FIX SUCH A LARGE PROBLEM BY MYSELF. MY HAND CAN ONLY REACH A VERY SMALL AND NARROW AREA OF IT...
BUT...

EVEN SO...
I THINK YOUR LITTLE SISTER IS WITHIN MY HAND'S REACH, JUN-KUN.
Warrior



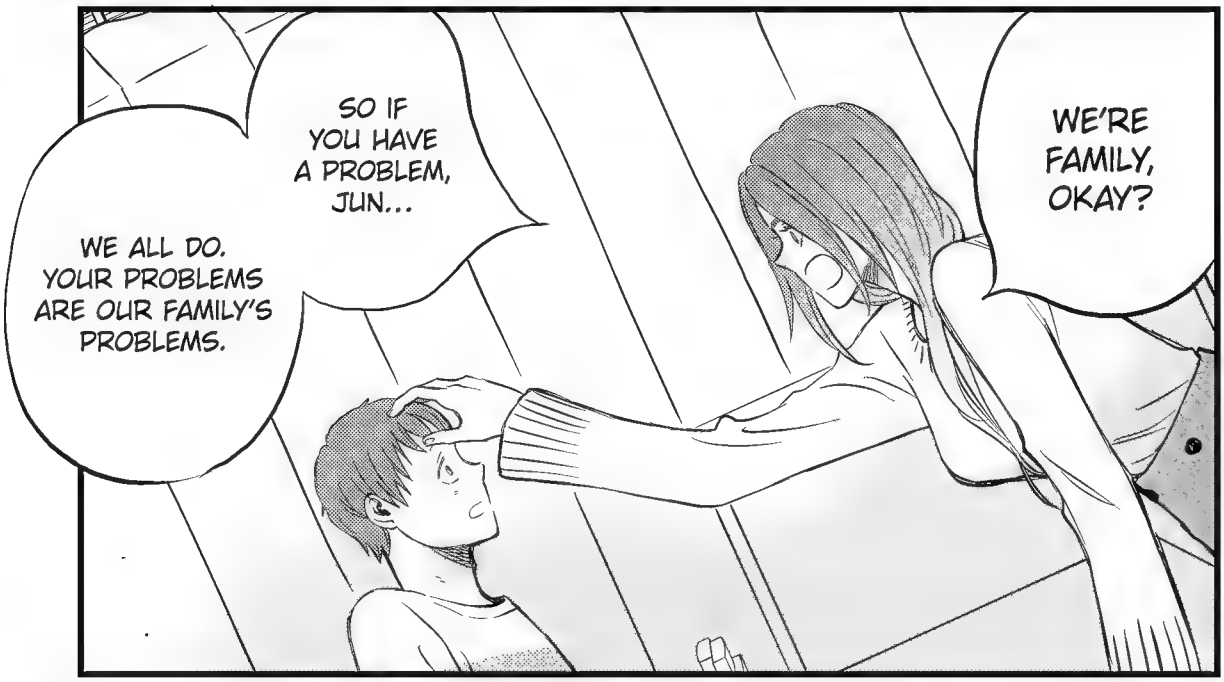


SO IF SHE'S YOUR SISTER...
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY FINE THAT SHE BECOMES OUR DAUGHTER.

...HUH...?
DOES THAT MEAN...?
YEAH...
YOU ARE OUR SON, AFTER ALL, JUN-KUN...
Big Warrior

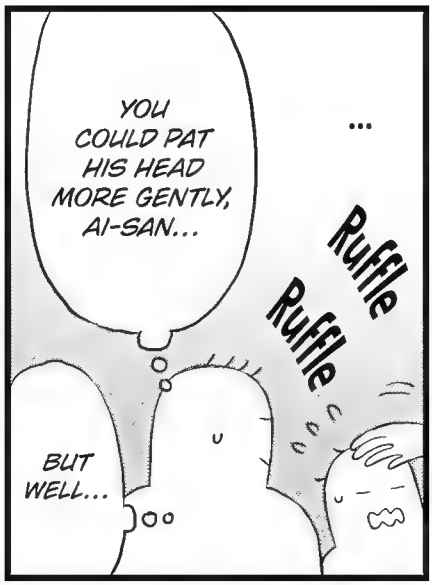
Ruffle

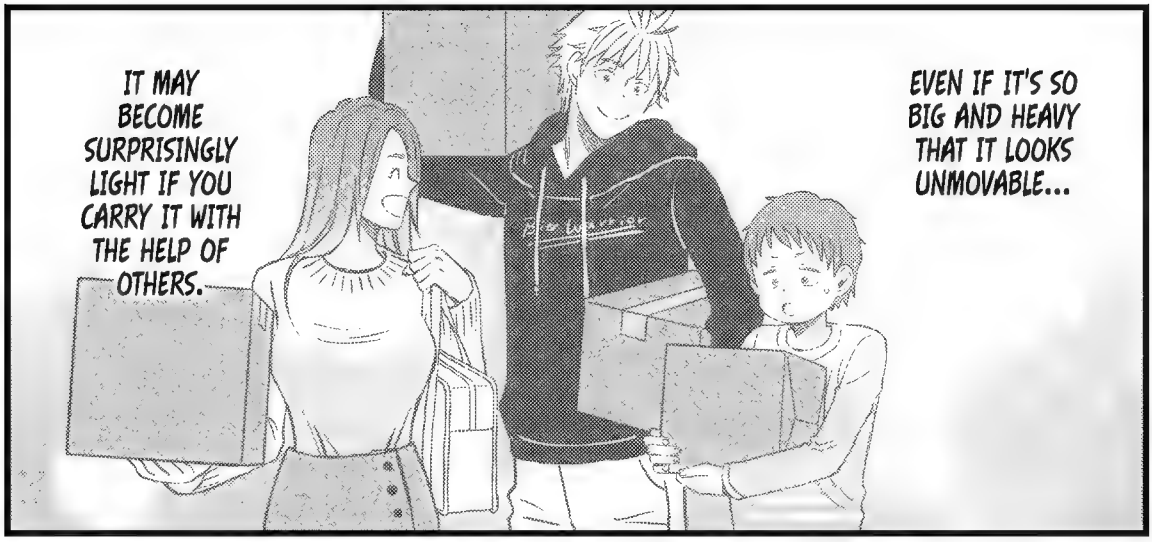
I CAN'T REALLY ASK YOU TO ADOPT MY...!
I-IT SURE IS. BUT...!
OF COURSE, ASSUMING THAT'S ALSO YOUR WISH, JUN.


WE'RE FAMILY, OKAY?
SO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, JUN...
WE ALL DO. YOUR PROBLEMS ARE OUR FAMILY'S PROBLEMS.

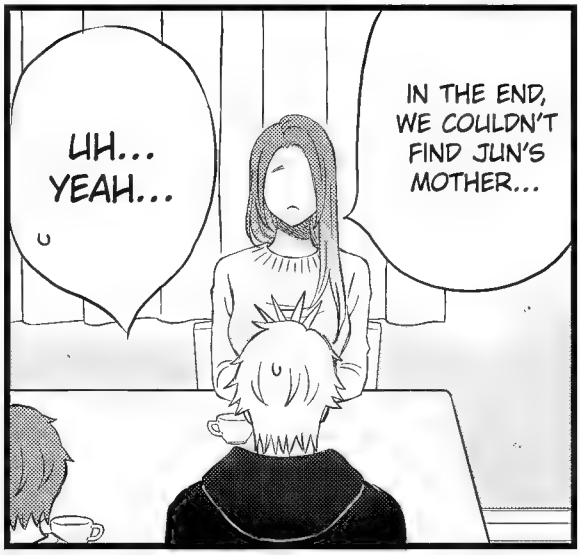
IT'S NOT SOMETHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ON YOUR OWN.
LET'S ALL FACE IT AND SHARE THE BURDEN TOGETHER.
IT'S UP TO THE THREE OF US TO THINK ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE IT.

IT'S OKAY TO SHARE BAGGAGE THAT IS TOO HEAVY.
THAT'S RIGHT...


YOU COULD PAT HIS HEAD MORE GENTLY, AI-SAN...
...
Ruffle
Ruffle
BUT WELL...


IT MAY BECOME SURPRISINGLY LIGHT IF YOU CARRY IT WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS.
EVEN IF IT'S SO BIG AND HEAVY THAT IT LOOKS UNMOVABLE...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? WILL YOU TELL JUN-KUN ABOUT HIS MOTHER?
...


UH... YEAH...
IN THE END, WE COULDN'T FIND JUN'S MOTHER...

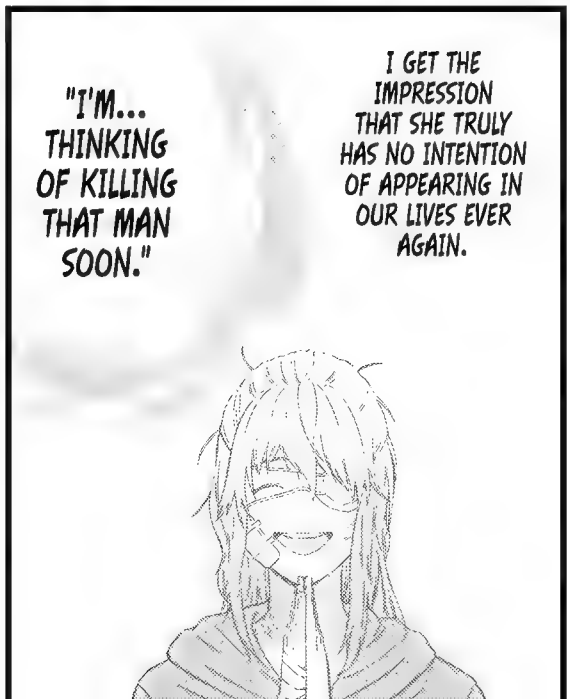
...NO.

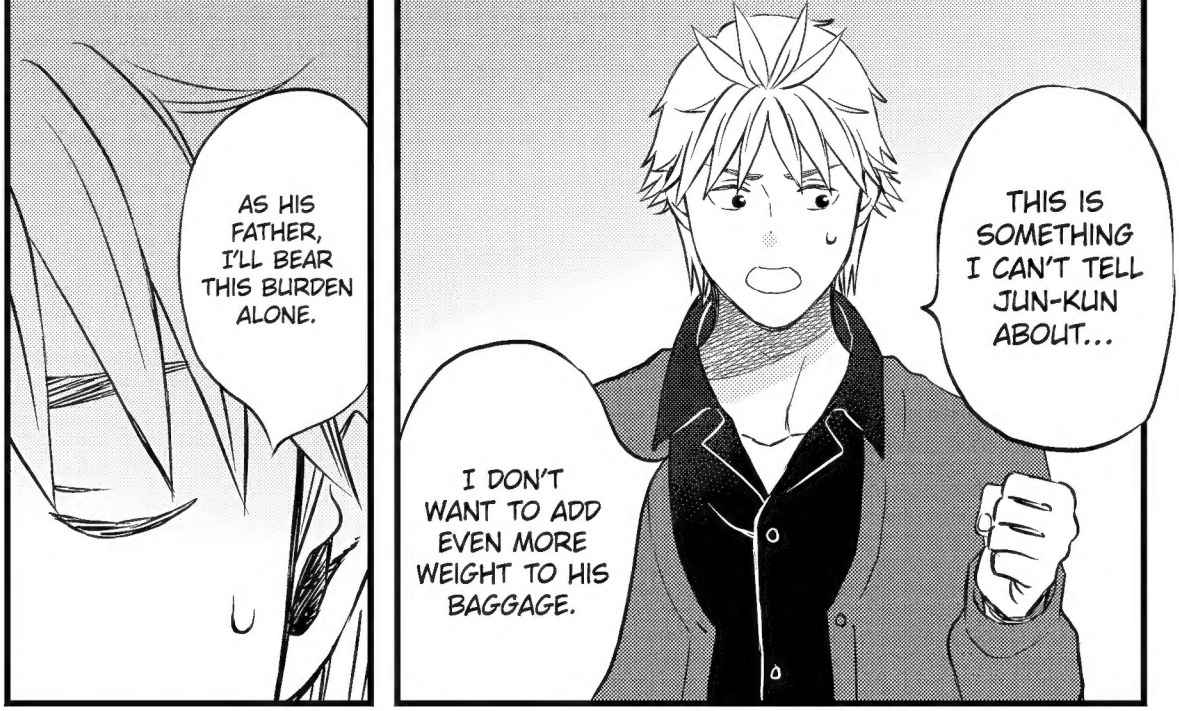
...
SHE SAID SHE WAS JOKING, BUT THAT PERSON IS PROBABLY SERIOUS ABOUT...

THEN I DON'T THINK WE CAN JUST LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE.

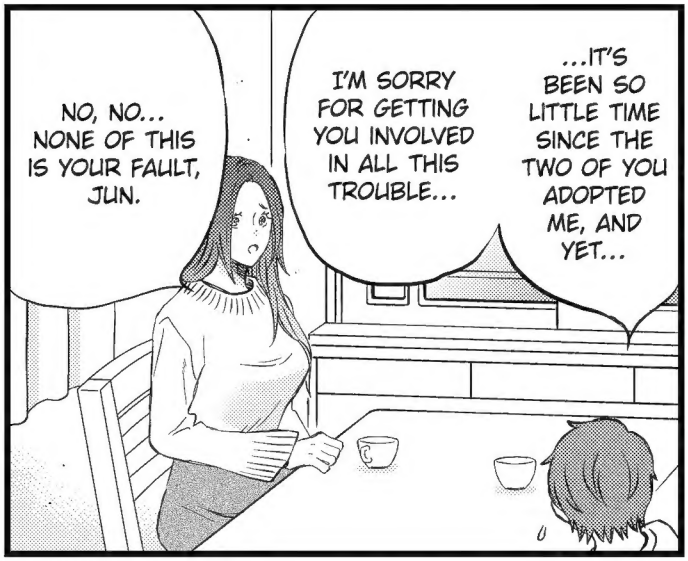
WHAT?! BUT...
THAT WAS DEFINITELY A JOKE.
IF WE DON'T TREAT IT AS ONE...

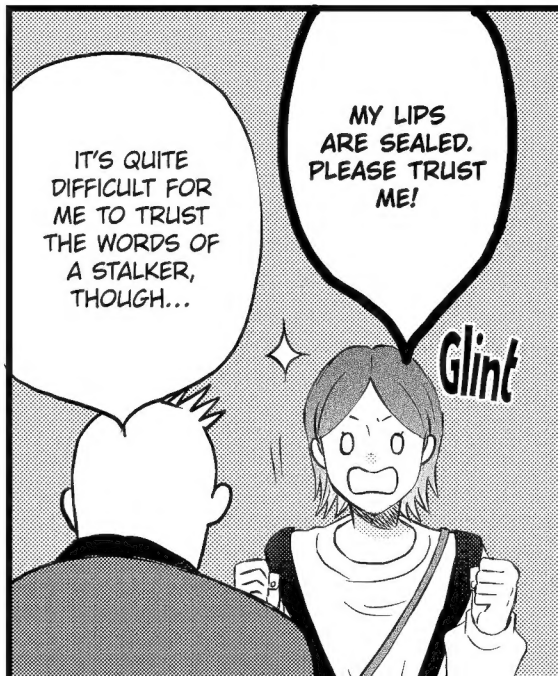
"BUT THEN AGAIN, I DON'T WANT MY SON AND DAUGHTER TO HAVE A MURDERER AS THEIR MOTHER..."
SHE DREW THE LINE AT THAT MOMENT... IN ORDER TO...

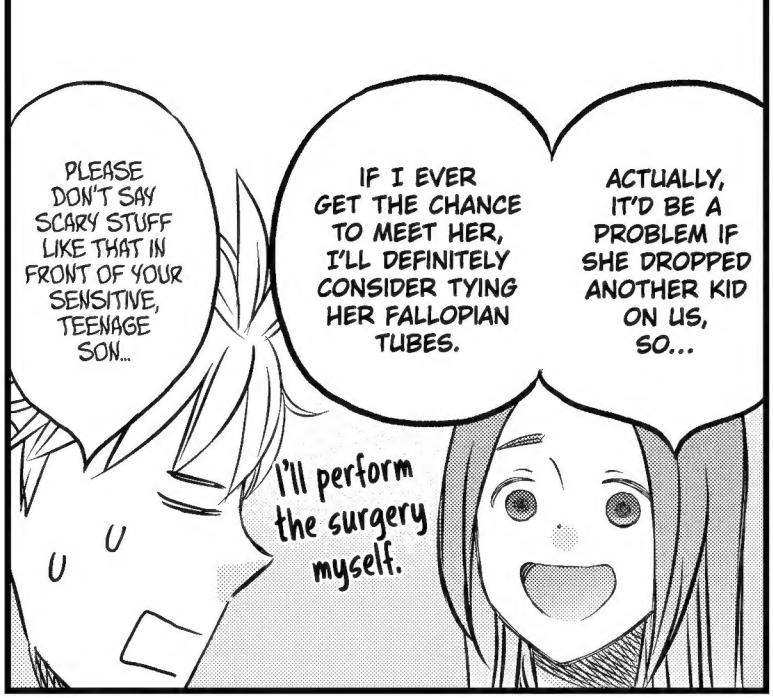

"I'M... THINKING OF KILLING THAT MAN SOON."
I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE TRULY HAS NO INTENTION OF APPEARING IN OUR LIVES EVER AGAIN.

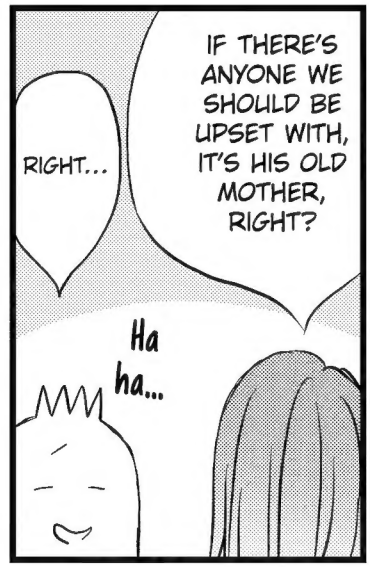

AS HIS FATHER, I'LL BEAR THIS BURDEN ALONE.
THIS IS SOMETHING I CAN'T TELL JUN-KUN ABOUT...
I DON'T WANT TO ADD EVEN MORE WEIGHT TO HIS BAGGAGE.

...I AGREE THAT IT'S BETTER THAT WAY.
I DON'T WANT AI-SAN TO KNOW ABOUT THIS, EITHER.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T WANT YOU TO TELL JUN-KUN...
ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED TODAY.

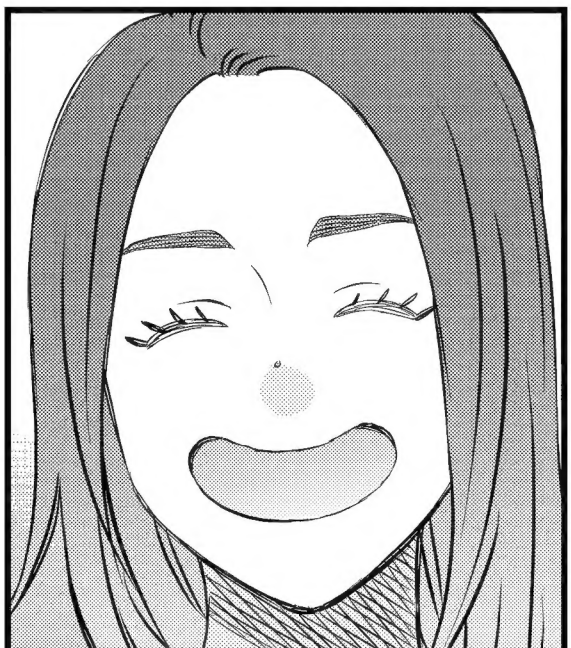

NO, NO... NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT, JUN.
I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED IN ALL THIS TROUBLE...
...IT'S BEEN SO LITTLE TIME SINCE THE TWO OF YOU ADOPTED ME, AND YET...


IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO TRUST THE WORDS OF A STALKER, THOUGH...
MY LIPS ARE SEALED. PLEASE TRUST ME!
Glint

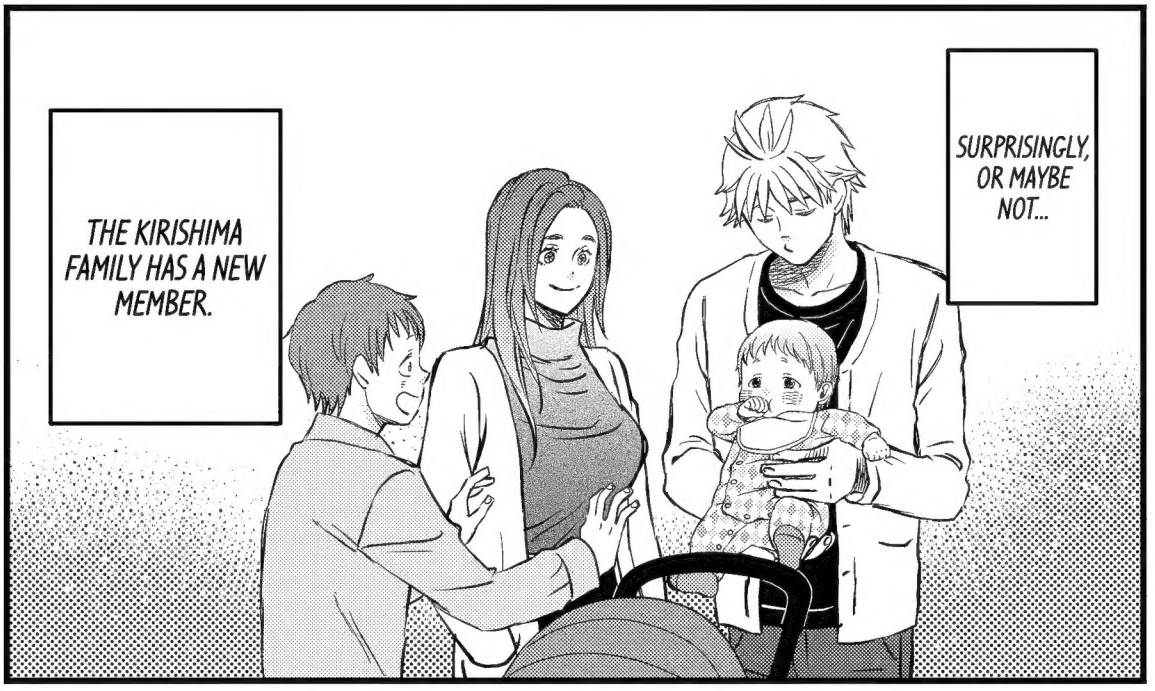

PLEASE DON'T SAY SCARY STUFF LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF YOUR SENSITIVE, TEENAGE SON...
IF I EVER GET THE CHANCE TO MEET HER, I'LL DEFINITELY CONSIDER TYING HER FALLOPIAN TUBES.
ACTUALLY, IT'D BE A PROBLEM IF SHE DROPPED ANOTHER KID ON US, SO...
I'll perform the surgery myself.

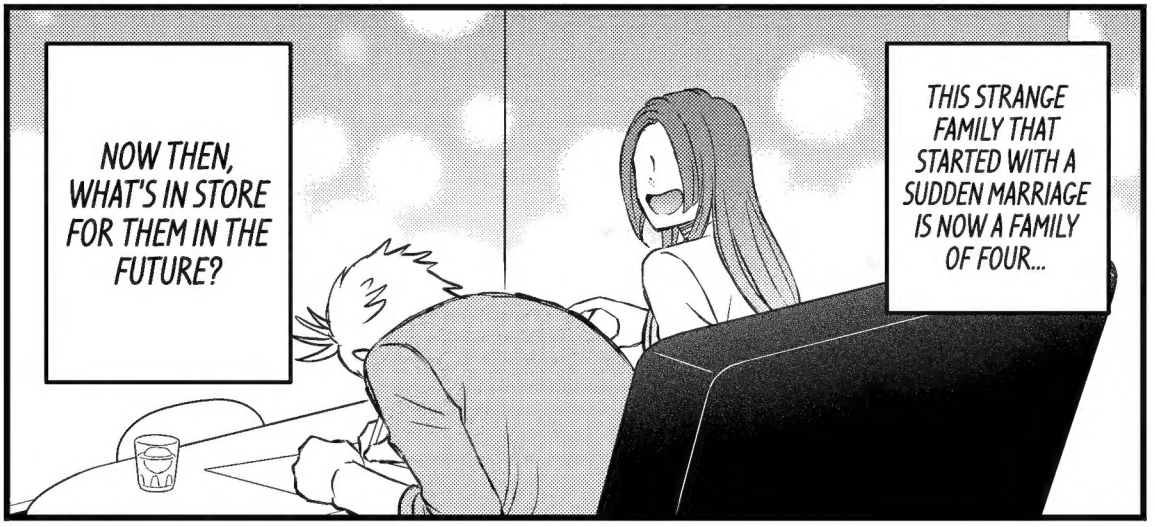

IF THERE'S ANYONE WE SHOULD BE UPSET WITH, IT'S HIS OLD MOTHER, RIGHT?
RIGHT...
Ha ha...

I THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
Heh!
OH, C'MON! YOU TOO, JUN-KUN?!
Geez!
AI-SAN'S BAD INFLUENCE IS RUBBING OFF ON YOU!!
HA HA HA!



AND SO...


THE KIRISHIMA FAMILY HAS A NEW MEMBER.
SURPRISINGLY, OR MAYBE NOT...


NOW THEN, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THEM IN THE FUTURE?
THIS STRANGE FAMILY THAT STARTED WITH A SUDDEN MARRIAGE IS NOW A FAMILY OF FOUR...